



(Photo by Maj. Sean Ryan, 2-2 Inf. Div. Public Affairs Officer)

Approximately 45 business owners attended the opening of the Abu Nuwas Revitalization Center June 9 in the Rusafa District of eastern Baghdad to discuss economic and security issues of the area.

Historic Abu Nuwas Street Revitalization Center Opens

By Maj. Sean Ryan
2-2 Inf. Div. Public Affairs Officer

FORWARD OPERATING BASE LOYALTY, Iraq - The rebuilding of the famous market in eastern Baghdad is making progress with the opening of the Abu Nuwas Revitalization Center June 9.

The market is well known for serving up mazgouf fish, meaning river fish, a Baghdad delicacy cooked over wood fires while you wait and served with fresh vegetables. The wait won't be too much longer as the information center is one of the first steps in the historic street's revival.

The information center was opened

in conjunction with local leaders from the Rusafa District along with the District Advisory Council chairman from Abu Nuwas.

This part of the city, which once provided a variety of shops, restaurants, and hotels, was world-renowned and will soon open again. Approximately 45 business owners attended the opening to discuss economic and security issues.

According to Maj. Dave Carlson, a native of Allensburg, Wash., and the leader of the 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division's civil support team

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Baghdad in Brief

Joint Medical Operation Treats Ameriyah Citizens

By Sgt. Jack Androski
1-5 Cavalry Regiment

BAGHDAD - Multi-National Division - Baghdad Soldiers and Iraqi Security Forces troops from conducted a cooperative medical engagement in the Ameriyah neighborhood June 9. The joint medical action was in support of residents who have recently risen up against al-Qaeda operatives in the area, who have terrorized this western Baghdad neighborhood.

Nearly 100 people showed up for Saturday's medical aid operation, which took place at the Fridas Mosque. Army medics from the 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment worked side-by-side with Iraqi Army medics from 2nd Battalion, 1st Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division, contributing their expertise and medical supplies to treat injured and ill Ameriyans.

Medical screenings and evaluations indicated that the majority of the residents seen were suffering from skin and viral infections, however, some patients showed up with injuries due to infection from gunshot wounds sustained from violence predicated on residents by al-Qaeda.

A second U.S/Iraqi Army medical engagement has been scheduled for later in the week, with the hopes of providing permanent medical aid throughout the neighborhood in the future.

Center Opens to Revitalize Baghdad Market Area

Revitalization

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and the Rusafa district, the meeting allowed business owners from the area to discuss issues and "become unified in their economic goals."

"It's in everyone's best interest to make the street a more central location," said Qays Foraj, the Abu Nuwas chairman. Foraj explained to the business owners his vision of the future for the market and the possibilities of offering financial assistance.

The center will be open to answer questions or discuss upcoming projects to citizens and business owners, alike. Questions to be answered include when the market will be open for customers.

"I would be very happy once the area brings back even a portion of the customers that used to come," said a store owner who owns a retail store. "A lot of money is being put into fixing the street and the people appreciate the time and

effort from everyone."

Under Operation Fardh Al-Qanoon, also known as the Baghdad Security Plan, the Abu Nuwas Market is one of the areas targeted to stimulate economic growth.

Brig. Gen. Vincent K. Brooks, Multi-National Division-Baghdad's deputy commanding general for support, paid a recent visit to the market and discussed issues with local owners.

"The Iraqi people need to remain resilient and things will get better," he said. Brooks recognized that security needs to improve and reassured the store owners that they will not be left without protection.

"Coalition Forces are working side-by-side with the Iraqi Security Forces and we are here to help, not leave," he said. Iraqi Police and Army under the Iraqi Rusafa Area Command provide security for the area, with help from the Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, currently operating



(Photo by Maj. Sean Ryan, 2-2 Inf. Div. Public Affairs Officer)

Brig. Gen. Vincent K. Brooks, Multi-National Division-Baghdad's Deputy Commanding General for Support, paid a visit to the Abu Nuwas Revitalization Center and discussed issues with local owners in the Rusafa District of eastern Baghdad June 9.

as part of the 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

The area has been shut down due a series of car bombs that left the area paralyzed several months ago. With no customers coming in, a lot of shop owners and restaurateurs had to close their doors and the ones that stayed in the area, slowly

watched their livelihoods disappear.

"We still need essential services like electricity and water," an owner of one of the fish markets told Brooks during the general's visit, "but we are ready to start telling all customers we will be open soon."

Arabic Phrase of the Day

jaddad

Defined:
renew

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today

High: 110
Low: 83



Tomorrow

High: 109
Low: 83



Saturday

High: 107
Low: 82

Commanding General: Maj. Gen. Joseph F. Fil, Jr.
Public Affairs Officer: Lt. Col. Scott Bleichwehl
Command Information Supervisor: Master Sgt. Dave Larsen
NCOIC, Print Production: Sgt. Michael Garrett
Editor: Spc. Jeffrey Ledesma
Staff Writers: Sgt. Nicole Kojetin, Spc. L.B. Edgar, Spc. Shea Butler, Pfc. Ben Gable and Pfc. William Hatton
Contributing Writers: Maj. Sean Ryan, Sgt. Robert Yde, Sgt. Jack

Androski, Spc. Nathan Hoskins and Spc. Courtney Marulli
Contact the *Daily Charge* at VOIP 242-4093, DSN 318-847-2855 or e-mail david.j.larsen@mnd-b.army.mil.

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Iraqi Air Forces Touch Down with Iraqi Minister of Defense

By Spc. Courtney Marulli
2-2 Inf. Div. Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE LOYALTY, Iraq -The Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police receive a lot of attention in the news, but little is known about the Iraqi Air Force. Lately, the Air Force has made great strides and recently flew an UH-1 Huey helicopter carrying the Iraqi Minister of Defense and landed at a Combat Outpost.

The Huey was flown by members of the Iraqi Air Force Military Transition Team, which consisted of one Iraqi pilot, one American pilot and an Iraqi and American gunner, said Sgt. 1st Class Eric D. Radecki, the operations noncommissioned officer in charge for the 1st Brigade, 11th Iraqi Army Division's MiTT, which is comprised of members of 2nd Brigade

Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division.

"Prior to this, you'd see a lot of the higher ranking Iraqi's flying on American birds," Radecki, of Colorado Springs, Colo., said. "Now, that they're flying on Iraqi aircraft. It's one more step to doing things on their own, without our support."

The Iraqi Minister of Defense was making a scheduled stop to inspect members of the 11th Iraqi Army Division and see how things were running, Radecki said.

When the Huey landed, it marked the first time the Iraqi Minister of Defense had come to Combat Outpost "Old Mod," which got its moniker since it was once the former Iraqi Ministry of Defense building. It was also the first time an Iraqi aircraft had landed there, Radecki said.

"The Air Force MiTT team briefed

the (2nd IBCT) MiTT team on the Iraqi Air Force's step in learning anti-terrorism tactics," Radecki said. "They will soon gain that air-mobile activity."

Gaining air mobility will be a huge step for the Iraqi's as it will allow them to put troops out in sector at a moment's notice, Radecki said. It will also enable them to conduct targeting raids and reduces the danger for their soldiers because they'll be using less convoys.

"It makes their abilities a lot greater," he said.

The kinks are still being worked out and Radecki said the Hueys have some maintenance issues. Radecki said maintenance issues are being addressed.

"Hopefully," he said, "we'll see more Iraqi aircraft flying over the capital doing patrols."



(Photo by Spc. Nathan Hoskins, 1st ACB Public Affairs)

Wisconsin Dells, Wis., native Nathan Schultz, a CH-47 Chinook helicopter crew chief and mechanic for Company D, 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, works on a Chinook during his shift.

Aviation Mechanics Work All Day, All Night to Keep Birds Flying Over the Iraqi Capital

By Spc. Nathan Hoskins
1st ACB Public Affairs

CAMP TAJI, Iraq - Just before the night sky begins to creep up on Iraq, Soldiers from the 1st Air Cavalry "Warrior" Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, head out to the flight line for yet another hard day's night.

This is the normal routine for the CH-47 Chinook helicopter maintainers of Company D, 2nd "Lobo" Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, said Wisconsin Dells, Wis., native Spc. Nathan Schultz, a Chinook mechanic and crew chief for Co. D.

Although a lot of activity goes on during the daylight hours, it doesn't stop once the sun goes down, he said.

"If anything happens at night, we're here to either run a downed aircraft mission or do major maintenance, minor maintenance or unscheduled maintenance - whatever comes

up," said Schultz who is on his second tour of Iraq.

The Chinooks do a lot of heavy lifting and carry multitudes of Soldiers across the battlefield. That is why it is necessary to keep them up and running, Schultz said.

"For the mission here, especially with the surge, (Chinooks) keep Soldiers off the ground. It keeps them away from the threat of (improvised explosive devices) and (vehicle borne improvised explosive devices) ... (some of) the major problems facing most Soldiers in Iraq right now," he said.

With over 300,000 troops moved and over 3.7 million pounds of equipment and supplies transported since the beginning of 1st ACB's deployment, keeping the birds flying has directly impacted the mission in Iraq, said Schultz.

Because the load capacity far out-

Transition Team Continue to See Progress in Iraqi Army

By Sgt. Robert Yde
2-1 Cav. Div. Public Affairs

BAGHDAD - Although he knew he would be a member of a military transition team upon arriving in Iraq last fall, before his unit deployed from Fort Hood, Texas, 1st Lt. Xeon Simpson did not know what that really meant.

"There were rumors leading right up to deployment, and then about a month before deployment, we were like, 'Yeah, that's what we're going to do,'" explained the Bronx, N.Y. native. "At that point, though, I didn't really understand what a MiTT was, or what I would be doing."

Since arriving to Baghdad in last November, though, Simpson, who is assigned to Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, said he has grown to really enjoy his role as a trainer and watching the soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 5th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division continue to show progress as they operate more and more on their own.

"They are head and shoulders above the rest of the other battalions in the brigade," he said. "Every time there's an inspection, be it surprised, be it announced, they always come out on top."

Simpson credits this to the leadership of the 1-5-6th IA and said that the quality of its leadership has allowed the battalion to function in many cases with minimal Coalition support or guidance.

"They've been out many times without us on missions," Simpson said. "They've planned and executed missions,



(Photo by Sgt. Robert Yde, 2-1 Cav. Div. Public Affairs)

1st Lt. Xeon Simpson (center) watches as an Iraqi Army troop examines a Monsour resident's car registration June 7. Simpson, a Bronx, N.Y., native, is a member of the military transition team supporting the 1st Battalion, 5th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division.

and they've done a lot of stuff by themselves, and they've done it real well."

Iraqi troops again demonstrated their autonomy June 7 during a cordon-and-knock mission in the Monsour area.

"It was 100 percent planned and executed by the IA, based on their intelligence," Simpson explained.

Simpson said that the Iraqi Army had received reports that there was a chemical lab in this area where home made explosives were being made and quickly put together the mission to try to locate the suspected lab.

Simpson and Staff Sgt. Brent Mathis were the only two Coalition Soldiers on the ground with the Iraqi troops as they went from house to house in the neighborhood.

"We facilitate, and that's it," Mathis, a native of Warner Robins, Ga., explained. "If needed, we'll go in and help, but if not, we let them do most of the stuff on their own because we're here so they can

learn to do it on their own."

During the search, Mathis and Simpson remained in the background, only getting involved on a couple of occasions when the Iraqi troops had questions or were looking for advice.

"They work real hard and go out and do what they've got to do," Mathis said of the IA soldiers. "Once they are given an [operations order], they go out, and they conduct the mission pretty well. They do a pretty good job."

Although, they were unable to locate the suspected chemical lab on this day, the Iraqi troops told Simpson that they planned to continue searching the area over the course of the next several days.

Simpson said that with many IA units, this type of persistent attitude is not always obvious, and that it is one of the things that set the 1-5-6th apart from their peers.

"Failure's not an option when it comes to certain missions that we're given, and the

attitude on the IA side is sometimes, 'If it happens, it happens,' Simpson said. "But the American attitude is more like, 'You've got to make it happen.' We've instilled a lot of that in them, and they make it happen one way or another. It may not be done the way I want it to be done, but it's done and it works."

"It's just like when you're growing up," he explained. "If no one expects anything from you and you do a little bit then that's great, but if everyone around you expects a lot and you do a lot then you become greater and greater."

Simpson said that his team is the third MiTT to work with the 1-5-6th, and based on how the battalion is now performing, he suspects that it will be their last.

"They've made a huge amount of progress, and while we still offer a lot to them, they could stand on their own if need be," he said. "I think with the direction that we're taking them, though, we're setting a new standard for the IA, and the 1-5-6th is going to set a new standard for all the other battalions in the brigade because of what they expect from themselves."

"They're starting to have that confidence by themselves now, and we're pulling back a little bit, and they're still going out, and they do what they have to do," he added. "When we first got here, one of the IA told me that, when the Americans are with them, they feel brave and feel like nobody can mess with them. Now, they don't depend on us as much for that added confidence, and they are excelling."



Shapleigh, Maine, native Spc. Edward Burnell, a CH-47 Chinook helicopter mechanic for Company D, 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, sits high above the ground on the forward pylon of a Chinook as he works to reattach the housing.

It's Been a Hard Day's Night ...

Aviation Mechanics Work Around the Clock

Hard Work

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weighs any other helicopter in the Army, it is the go-to bird for transporting Soldiers headed out on leave, said Spc. Mitchell Peterson, a Co. D Chinook mechanic from Buckeye, Ariz.

But before the Chinook maintainers get their hands on an aircraft, they are first assigned the maintenance task by the production control shop, said Fort Bragg, N.C., native Spc. Jeremy Kuryla, the production control assistant for Co. D.

Every helicopter has a computer where the crew annotates the hours flown, maintenance issues and so on, he

said. From there they head to the PC shop where Kuryla loads up the forms that start the maintenance process - a process made a lot easier now that it's paperless.

The PC shop is like a hub where all the maintenance issues go through, said Sgt. 1st Class Ernie Midkiff, the production control noncommissioned officer in charge.

"Throughout the night, what this office does is we decide the priority of maintenance - when something is repaired, who repairs it and how it's repaired," said Midkiff, a native of Leesville, La.

Just like the maintainers, the mission of this nocturnal NCO is to keep the aircraft in the air supporting the mission, he said.

"What's important, from our end, is

that we always have not only aircraft to support the missions, but that we also have backup aircraft (ready)," said Midkiff.

"If we don't do our job down here (or) manage our maintenance accordingly and appropriately, then the end result would be that we would be dropping missions ... We can't afford to drop missions," he said.

The amount of work that goes into each bird is immense, thus the need to keep on the job all night, said Midkiff.

No matter what the maintenance issue, no matter the time of night, Co. D is there to support the mission and, in turn, keep Soldiers safer during their deployment, said Schultz.

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(Background photo by Spc. Nathan Hoskins, 1st ACB Public Affairs)